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Upheaval

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Panel: Fantasy and Reality

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Upheaval

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El-bistami, a sufi master, used to say, “to know that I am no-thing, that is wisdom. To know that I am everything, that is love. And between these two my life moves.” Think of everything and no-thing in a different way. Think of them as two sides of the same coin. So are Fantasy and Reality: two sides of the same coin. Do you know what the good thing about having a coin is?

Flipping the coin. When you do that, listen to that metal vibration. Listen sincerely to the wings of this metal butterfly.

When interviewed a young writer said, “my mission as a writer is to confuse the reader, to make him debate his beliefs.” That’s the core. Flipping our consciousness.

Flipping the coin.

You have two choices: flirt with the reality until it accepts you, or banish yourself to your daydreams.

Of course the real world can carry all the good news to us: war, tornadoes, AIDS , nuclear weapons, cancer, and windows xp. But we have the freedom to be in two places at once. One foot in the real world and the other in a secret promised land.

In the “Utopia” of the tired laborers, where there’s no black or white, but all the shades in between.

Where your soul reshapes things. Where you’ll be able to kiss a wound and “look it’s gone.”

Where you’ll be able to bribe the gatekeepers with little money.

Any currency will be fine. Put your hand in your pocket and get the coin out then.

Flip it in the air. When it touches the gatekeeper’s palm, he’ll turn into a butterfly.

You’ll be able to plant your heart in the earth and throw your soul into the sky, to take strength from the earth, and courage from heaven.

Heaven on one side, and the earth on the other.

Flip the coin. Flip. Then wait for the upheaval.

El-bistami says, “to know that I am no-thing, that is wisdom. To know that I am everything, that is love. And between these two my life moves.” I say: “to know that I am no-thing, that is reality. To know that I am everything, that is fantasy. And between these two my pen moves.”